

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Spring Term 2



BOOK DAY

We had a brilliant World Book Day celebrating books, stories and words! We shared and celebrated our creative 'Word' themed costumes, took part in online interactive lessons, worked collaboratively with other year groups, shared and acquired new books in our Eco Steward's Book Swap, visited Elm bank to share some stories with the residents, joined in a range of fun activities in class and finished the day by listening to a story of our choice, read by one of the adults in school.



Attendance

Current whole school attendance figure:
94%

Bikeability

At the start of this half term, lots of members of Year 5 took part in bikeability. They spent a week learning how to ride their bikes safely on the roads, in the sunshine and the rain! All of the children were presented with a certificate and badge at the end of the course. The instructors commented on their kindness and polite manners. Well done Year 5!



Easter Activities

Every year at St. Thomas More, we celebrate and learn more about the Easter Story and Jesus' death and resurrection through our Easter Activities. All of the classes across the school were mixed up and all of the children got to visit each class and teacher over two days to take part in a range of fun and creative activities all based around Easter! The older children did a wonderful job of looking after our younger ones.



BOOK AND BISCUIT

St. George Class (EYFS) had a wonderful morning celebrating Mother's Day with our Book and Biscuit event. The children welcomed their families into school and they shared their favourite stories together. The morning finished with the children singing a special song they had learnt to our audience. It was fantastic to welcome our Parents, Grandparents and siblings into our classroom. A huge thank you to everyone who supported this event.



Prayer Garden

The St Thomas More prayer garden is beginning to take shape. The shed and the fence are now in place, and some planters are now flowering. We have also planted Mrs Howes' cherry blossom tree, which she received from the staff when she became Headteacher, which looks lovely in the centre of the garden. Hopefully, now the weather is improving, we are looking forward to carrying on with our work to complete the garden. We still have a rockery to build in either corner and planting, which will complete the garden. Furthermore, we have been very fortunate to have two wooden benches donated to us, which will allow the children and staff to have somewhere to sit quietly in thought and prayer.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Eppey and the children of the gardening club, who have been working hard on the garden.

If you have any spare plants, seeds or gardening resources or know of anyone that can donate anything, we would greatly appreciate it.

CAFOD

Over Lent we have been aiming to walk 200km as part of The Big Lent Walk to raise money for CAFOD. They are a Catholic international charity who reach out to support people who live in poverty with practical help. Thank you for all your donations and support over the past few weeks. We really appreciate everything you give and donate to our charities each term. Below is the link for anyone who would like to sponsor us still! No amount is too little, and every penny raised for CAFOD helps to support people living in poverty -

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/stm-the-big-lent-walk2024>



Message from the Chair of Governors

Dear STM community.

As we approach the important period of Easter, we all have a sense of celebration, whether it be religious, the fact that we get a two week break from the manic school schedule, or if you are like me, you are enjoying the earlier sun rises. I would also like to reflect on what is happening both inside and outside of the school.

As you have probably noticed, we are making good progress with the long overdue roof repairs and all being well, should be completed by the time you are back from the Easter break. We have also recently had new smart lights installed across the school, which will help with providing better lighting in the school and be more energy efficient. It was great seeing so many parents at the recent end of Curriculum celebration evening, with this being the second time Mrs Howes and the staff have used this format which opens up the whole school for you to view and gain some insights into what the children do during the school day. From a Governance perspective, it is also a busy time with lots of activities going on, such as Governor visits around the school and a number of collaborative meetings with the Trust, and the general good of those meetings and activities are excellent.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you for your continued support to the school, it is much appreciated and thank you to the staff whose continued commitments to the school, children and families is what makes STM a great place.

Have a great Easter,
Crofton

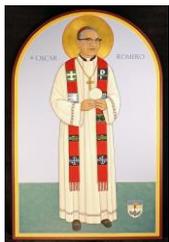


St. Joseph Feast Celebration

St. Joseph is the patron saint of workers (among other things) and in Year 6 we have been honouring this by working incredibly hard day-in-day-out, however, we took a break from this and took part in some fun activities, including a hockey tournament and finishing the day by watching a film, drawing and having some treats.

St. Oscar Feast Celebration

Year 5 celebrated Saint Oscar Romero's Feast day with lots of fun and crafts! We started the day by decorating some of our own wooden Romero crosses, as well as making friendship bracelets for other students in the class to surprise them with. We spent extra time outside playing class games before having some snacks in class and painting some cards!



Term Dates Academic Year 2023 – 2024

Term	Start Date for Children	End Date for Children
Term 1	Monday 4 th September	Friday 20 th October
Term 2	Monday 6 th November	Wednesday 20 th December
Term 3	Thursday 4 th January	Friday 16 th February
Term 4	Monday 26 th February	Friday 28 th March
Term 5	Monday 15 th April	Friday 24 th May
Term 6	Monday 3 rd June	Wednesday 24 th July

The dates for 2024 – 2025 are now on the school website.

Reminder – The school is closed on Thursday 2nd May due to being used as a Polling Station. We apologise for any inconvenience.

St. Patrick Feast Celebration

St Patrick Class had a wonderful day celebrating their class Saint. They learnt a little more about St Patrick's feast day and how it is celebrated worldwide. We used the shamrock (St Patrick's symbol that he used to explain the Holy Trinity) to inspire some craft on the day and ended with a party and lots of treats.



The Ark

The Ark is a community group for families, from both the school and local communities.

The group meet on a Thursday morning from 9am to 10.45am in the school hall.

All are welcome.

£2 per family

Contact - thearktots@gmail.com for more details.

ECO Committee

The Eco Stewards have been very busy again this term, working hard to make our planet and school a better place. We had the pleasure of a member of Kettering Nature Society come in to see us and tell us all about bees! We also got given our own solitary bee house, where we will be keeping track of all the bees that come and go around our school.

As well as this, we have been continuing with our recycling, composting, litter picking and even taken part in a trust wide badge competition!



A Prayer for Easter

An Easter Prayer

*That you gave your one and only Son,
that we might be called your children too.
Lord, help us to live in the gladness and
grace of Easter Sunday, everyday.
Let us have hearts of thankfulness
for your sacrifice.
Let us have eyes that look upon
your grace and rejoice in our salvation.
Help us to walk in that mighty grace
and tell your good news to the world.
All for your glory do we pray, Lord,
Amen.*

Elm Bank

For 'World Book Day' St Teresa Class visited Elm Bank Care Home. The children each took a book of their choice to read with the residents. They had a wonderful time sharing stories and showing off their fabulous 'word' outfits. The children were wonderful representatives of the school and we look forward to returning in the Summer term to continue reading with them.

St. George Class also visited to wish the residents a 'Happy Easter.' The children sang their Easter songs and delivered cards. It certainly spread a lot of joy.



Friends of St. Thomas More (FSTM)

We thank the school community for continuing to support our school. All funds raised will go towards exciting projects, trips, equipment, treats and events for our children.

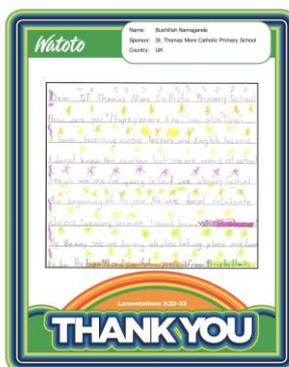
We warmly welcome all new members: parents/carers, friends, teachers and family of the school to express their interest in joining. Whether you would like to play a key role in FSTM or are able to provide a few hours where you can, we would love to hear from you!

If you would like to play a vital part in enhancing your child's time at our lovely school and help raise much needed funds; we invite you to join Friends of St Thomas More (FSTM).

Please drop an email to fstmvolunteers@gmail.com if you are interested in joining!

STM Ambassadors

Our STM Ambassadors have continued to communicate and support Bushillah, a girl we sponsor in Watoto. They have been sharing how we celebrate Easter and asking her what she does on her Lenten journey. If your child would like to send a letter to Bushillah, please let Miss McCormack or Miss Clarke know.



EYFS Easter Celebration

St. George Class (EYFS) welcomed their families into school to share our Easter Celebrations. We sang some Easter songs on the stage before taking part in a range of Easter craft activities and an egg hunt. We all had lots of fun, especially making our bunny ears for our final song; The Easter Bunny Pokey. A huge thank you to all of our wonderful families who joined for our special celebration!



A message from Mrs Howes -

What an amazing week for us to finish our term on! I have been so proud of every child this week, as they have shared their incredible talents with the school family. The children have not just shone brightly with their remarkable performances, but also with their kindness and consideration to one another during our Easter Activities. I always feel honoured to be their Headteacher, but this week has been extra special. Another very special moment for me this term, was yet again celebrating our Governor Award Nominees for the Lent term. Each of them has been a wonderful ambassador for our school and has demonstrated our Mission Statement daily. A huge well done to them all and a special congratulations to Miya-May, our overall winner.

With a heavy heart, I do also have to inform you that Mrs Thomas will be retiring from St. Thomas More after more than 30 years with the school. Her last day will be on Friday 26th April and we will be very sad to say goodbye but wish her every happiness for the future.

Thank you to our school family for your ongoing support and dedication. Wishing you all a safe, restful and blessed Easter break and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 15th April for another busy and exciting half term.



Year 1, 2 and 3 Easter Celebration

The Easter performance by Years One, Two and Three was a great success. The children worked incredibly hard to learn the songs and their lines. Year One performed a poem that they wrote themselves and children from Years Two and Three read extracts from scripture to tell the Easter story, all off by heart! The singing was truly beautiful and the children loved learning all the different songs. They worked hard all term to make sure the performance conveyed the story of Easter and loved sharing their performance with parents and guardians. Thank you for all the support with learning songs and lines at home!



Easter Production – Resurrection Rock

With Easter around the corner, Year 4, 5 and 6 worked very hard on their Easter production. This Year, we performed 'Resurrection Rock'. Year 5 led the production with great enthusiasm and talent, supported by Year 4 and the 4, 5 and 6 choir, who sang beautifully. We were so excited to share the production with everyone and we hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did.

